From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Reid, Mike (SHF)
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for October 15, 2018
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Courts / Rulings

Downtown stakeholders push for trial in key Skid Row case
In April 2016, United State District Court Judge James Otero made a key ruling in the case known as "Mitchell vs. City of Los Angeles." He issued a temporary injunction that prevented the city from seizing and destroying property in Skid Row without posting advance notice in the area. The city, Otero ruled, must store impounded belongings so people can retrieve them. It applied only to Skid Row and "adjoining areas."
LA Downtown News

Judge rules Huntington Beach doesn't need to obey 'sanctuary law'
An Orange County Superior Court judge has ruled that California's "sanctuary state law" conflicts with Huntington Beach's rights as a charter city, throwing some protections for undocumented immigrants into question in 120 cities throughout the state. Senate Bill 54 or the California Values Act, authored by state Sen. Kevin de León, a Los Angeles Democrat who is challenging incumbent U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, doesn't actually make California a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants.
Public CEO

Court rules for California over Trump in sanctuary city case
A U.S. judge on Friday blocked the Trump Administration from placing conditions on public safety grants to further its crackdown on illegal immigration, and he ordered the grant money to be released to California "sanctuary cities." However, while Judge William Orrick in San Francisco found that the conditions placed last year on public safety grants by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions were unconstitutional, he stayed a nationwide injunction pending appeal.
Reuters

Requirement for probationer to seek approval to move unconstitutional
The Third District Court of Appeal has said that a condition of probation requiring a man to obtain approval from his probation officer before changing his residence was unconstitutionally overbroad on its face. The opinion, filed Thursday, was written by Justice Elena J. Duarte. It remands the matter with directions to strike or modify the condition.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

C.A. yanks Judge Sandoval off case based on delays
The Court of Appeal for this district on Friday vacated a sentence because the defendant was not allowed to be personally present at the sentencing and disqualified Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jose I. Sandoval from handling further proceedings based on his "unconscionable" three-year delay in resentencing the man following a 2013 remand. Acting Presiding Justice Victoria G. Chaney of Div. One wrote the opinion, which was not certified for publication.

Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Student's suspension for alleged assault contravened due process
A University of California, Santa Barbara student who was suspended following a sexual assault allegation was completely deprived of due process and is entitled to a rescission of the punishment, Court of Appeal for this district's has declared. The opinion by Div. Six Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert was filed Tuesday.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Prosecutors / Prosecutions

Santa Clara County DA argues new juvenile prosecution law is unconstitutional
Setting the stage for a legal challenge against a new state law that bars 14-and 15-year-old offenders from being charged as adults, prosecutors questioned its constitutionality Tuesday during a hearing involving a teenager convicted of brutally slaying his classmate in South San Jose.
Bay Area News Group

Third shooter admits role in 2006 death of Oceanside police officer
Nearly 12 years after gang members gunned down an Oceanside police officer during a traffic stop, a 28-year-old man admitted in court Friday that he was one of the triggermen. Jose Compre, who was 16 at the time of the killing of Officer Dan Bessant, pleaded guilty to a charge of voluntary manslaughter, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office said in announcing the surprise deal.
Los Angeles Times

They killed a 10-year-old boy after he came out. Now they're facing death too.
When 10-year-old Anthony Avalos told his mother that he "liked boys," his mother and her boyfriend tortured him to death. Now they're facing the death penalty for their crime. When the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department responded to a 911 call at his home, they were told by his mother Heather Barron that the child had "suffered injuries from a fall." Avalos was unresponsive and taken to the hospital, where he died a day later.
LGBTQ Nation

Bellflower woman who outsmarted a fake cop among those honored by LA County prosecutors
A Bellflower woman who outsmarted a man posing as a police officer was among a handful of Los Angeles County residents honored by local prosecutors Friday for their efforts in protecting children from potentially dangerous situations. Others honored included three women credited with saving a 3-year-old boy as he walked alone on the

shoulder of a freeway on-ramp in Echo Park, and a Palmdale man who reported a co-worker who allegedly had child pornography on his phone.
San Gabriel Valley Tribune

New law will put limits on trying juveniles as adults
A new law limiting the age of juvenile offenders who can be prosecuted as adults means a 15-year-old Oxnard boy accused in two 2018 murders will be tried in juvenile court. Senate Bill 1391 was signed into law Sept. 30 by Gov. Jerry Brown and states that juvenile offenders 14 and 15 years old can no longer be prosecuted as adults, regardless of the crime they are accused of committing.
Ventura County Star

Prop 57 & 47 AB 109 & AB 1810

Juvenile rapists cheer Governor Brown
During a time when a touching that might have happened 36 years ago gains wall to wall coverage in the news for two weeks and destroys two families, California is giving a get out of jail free card to CONVICTED rapists. Yup, Jerry Brown thinks women should not be inappropriately touched in Hollywood or Washington, has no problem giving a break to rapists in Chico or San Diego.
California Political Review

Former SF mayor says city he governed now allows too much to occur on streets.
Does your city have a large homeless population? A large drug problem? Most larger cities in the United States have concerns with how to deal with increasing numbers of people living on the streets and when that is combined with habitual drug use, it just creates more strife.
Instinct Magazine

It is time to address SLO's skyrocketing crime rates
Our current San Luis Obispo mayor would have us believe that crime has gone down between 2017-2018, but it belies a disturbing truth. Our Police Department's own published crime statistics for the first three-quarters of 2018 reveals a significant increase in certain deeply concerning crimes. While vehicle thefts and aggravated assaults have gone down, here is what the city's own statistics show.
CalCoastNews

Lawmakers react to viral video of Smittcamp's public safety concerns
State lawmakers say they've heard the concerns of Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp in a social media video that has gone viral. Since we created the clip it's been viewed over one million times. In the video, the Fresno County DA explains the challenges she believes are facing public safety in the state. Smittcamp's unscripted speech now has more than 20-thousand shares on Facebook. California lawmakers

from both sides of the aisle agree change is needed.
YourCentralValley

Law Enforcement

Gunman arrested near Malibu Creek State Park, where camper Tristan Beaudette was killed

Investigators will use ballistic testing to determine whether a rifle carried by a burglary suspect was used in the killing of a camper as he and his daughters slept in a tent at a wilderness park in California, authorities said Thursday. A man dressed in black and carrying the rifle was arrested Wednesday near Malibu Creek State Park, where a camper was shot and killed as he slept in a tent in June, authorities said.
Ventura County Star

Santa Clara County sheriff's K9s sniff out drugs, phones out of jail cells

Two dogs are part of the newest tactic in the fight to keep drugs and cell phones out of Santa Clara County jail cells. The dogs, Ollie and Finn, will be tasked with trying to solve one of the biggest issues every jail has. The Sheriff's Office said not only will the dogs keep the jails safer, but the streets as well. That is because the so-called shot-callers who are guiding street crime from their cells will lose the cell phones they need to give orders to foot soldiers on the outside.
NBC4 Los Angeles

The Tenderloin and SoMa: San Francisco's safe sites for drug dealers

"There's one," the police sergeant said as we drove through the Tenderloin. "There's one of them there. That guy, see him?" And another. And another. Sgt. Kevin Healy was showing me known drug dealers, and they were everywhere - swarming the neighborhood, chatting and smiling. They didn't seem to have a care in the world. That's because they don't. Not in San Francisco.
SF Gate

Drug investigation in L.A., Ventura counties nets 13 arrests

A multi-agency investigation into drug trafficking in Los Angeles and Ventura counties led to the arrests of more than a dozen suspects, including a San Fernando Valley man alleged to be the organization's ringleader, authorities said Tuesday. Ventura County Sheriff's Department officials said the suspects in the narcotics operation are believed to be linked to the Mexican Sinaloa drug cartel.
My News LA

New lawsuits filed against Beverly Hills Police Chief

Four more lawsuits have been filed by Beverly Hills Police Department employees who claim they were marginalized, faced retaliation, or were denied workplace protections by the city and its Police Chief, Sandra

Spagnoli. To date at least 10 Beverly Hills police employees, including a captain and two lieutenants, have filed legal complaints saying they've lost pay, benefits, and professional standing as a result of the Chief's actions.
Triple5Light

California Driver's Handbook must now include civil rights during a traffic stop
Drivers in California will get a copy of their civil rights during a traffic stop, including how to file a complaint against a peace officer. Governor Brown signed AB 1918 over the weekend. Assembly Bill 2918 already required the California Department of Motor Vehicles to provide a Driver's Handbook with information regarding rail safety, abandoning or dumping an animal on a highway, and respecting the right-of-way of others.
CBS13 Sacramento

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

Change in California's felony murder law could set hundreds free
Hundreds of people convicted of felony murder in California could soon have another day in court and eventually walk free as a result of a change to the state's felony murder law. In San Diego, at least 150 cases could be impacted. "This new law goes too far. And I am concerned about public safety," said San Diego District Attorney Summer Stephan.
NBC4 Los Angeles

Fentanyl worries have Calif. police changing the way they handle, test for illicit drugs
Wearing gloves and working under a hood that vents fumes from the evidence room, La Mesa police Sgt. Katy Lynch pushed a button on the scanner in her hand and shined a laser on the plastic baggie in front of her. In less than a minute, the device, which is about the size of a Nintendo Game Boy, identified the white powder, flashing the word "methamphetamine" on its small screen.
San Diego Union-Tribune

President Trump delivers speech to IACP Conference (Video)
President Donald Trump delivered a speech to attendees at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Orlando on Monday. Opening his remarks to the assembled law enforcement leaders at the annual conference, Trump said, "I have great, great love for what you do and the way you do it."
Police Magazine

Was Hollywood producer's graphic novel a blueprint for murder?
A mother's intuition that something is wrong with her daughter living in Los Angeles led police to a house of horrors. Inside, they found Iana

Kasian, 30, brutally murdered. Where the trail of blood led them could easily be the subject of big-screen movie script or a novel. Olga Kasian was concerned when she hadn't heard from her daughter, who was living with Blake Leibel in West Hollywood.
48 Hours

Diocese of San Bernardino releases list of 34 priests accused of sexual abuse in past 40 years
The Diocese of San Bernardino County on Monday released a list of 34 priests who have been accused of sexually abusing children since the diocese formed in 1978. Six of the named priests - Edward Ball, Gustavo Benson, Anthony Rodrigue, Alex Castillo, Jesus Dominguez and Ponciano Ramos - were convicted for their crimes.
San Bernardino Sun

Convictions / Sentences

Judge OKs death penalty for 'human monster' linked to slayings of 5 California women
A serial killer linked to the deaths of five women more than 20 years ago in Southern California will face the death penalty. A Superior Court judge in Orange County issued the sentence Friday for Andrew Urdiales, 54, who was convicted of killing the women in Riverside, Orange and San Diego counties between 1986 and 1995. The judge's decision came after a jury recommended the death penalty for Urdiales earlier this year.
Fox News

Jilted lover slashed 17-year-old ex: Attempted murder conviction
An Azusa man who stabbed and slashed his then-17-year-old ex-girlfriend when they met to discuss their relationship two years ago was convicted Tuesday of attempted murder and mayhem charges. Jurors also found true allegations that Jason Scott Gustin, 20, inflicted great bodily injury under circumstances involving domestic violence and that he personally used a knife during the commission of the crime.
My News LA

California resident sentenced to 25 years for producing child pornography
United States Attorney Scott W. Murray announced today that Michael Gutierrez, 35, of Pomona, California, was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison for producing child pornography. According to documents filed in the case, Gutierrez contacted minor females in New Hampshire through social media and initiating conversations with the minor females through social media platforms.
United States Department of Justice

Justice catches up with Pasadena killer
A Los Angeles man convicted of gunning down a jewelry salesman at a

Pasadena gas station three decades ago was sentenced Thursday to 32 years to life in state prison. Superior Court Judge Stan Blumenfeld imposed the term on Albert Ahmad Clark, 56, who was found guilty last year of first-degree murder for the Feb. 27, 1988, slaying of Leroy Galloway, 39. The victim was shot twice near Lake Avenue and Orange Grove Boulevard, according to Deputy District Attorney Ryan Erlich.
Pasadena Patch

Los Angeles County

Members of deputy "gang" reportedly put other LA County sheriff's deputies in hospital after off-duty brawl
In the wee hours of last Thursday night, September 27 - or technically September 28, as it was well past midnight - a large party was drawing to a close at Kennedy Hall, a rentable performance and event venue on South Atlantic Blvd in East LA, when a violent brawl broke out between off-duty members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, some of whom were members of a notorious deputy clique.
Witness LA

LASD Sgt. Steve Owen remembered 2 years after being killed in the line of duty
Friends, family and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department gathered Friday to honor slain Sgt. Steve Owen on the second anniversary of his death. Owen was shot and killed while investigating a burglary in Lancaster. Two years after his death, Owen's family says the Antelope Valley community is still showing them the love and support they gave them right after Owen died.
ABC7

L.A. County watchdog investigating team of deputies that stopped thousands of innocent Latinos on 5 Freeway
The Los Angeles County inspector general has launched an investigation into whether a Sheriff's Department highway enforcement team engaged in racial profiling when it stopped thousands of innocent Latino drivers in search of drugs on the 5 Freeway. The move comes after the Los Angeles Times reported that nearly 70% of drivers stopped from 2012 through last year were Latino and that two-thirds of them had their vehicles searched - a rate far higher than motorists of other racial and ethnic groups.
Los Angeles Times

Typhus reaches 'epidemic levels' in parts of Los Angeles area
Health officials on Friday reported a typhus outbreak in Los Angeles County and say it has reached "epidemic levels" in the city of Pasadena. Twenty cases have been reported in Pasadena, mostly in the last two months, health officials told NBC News, noting that a normal year would typically only see five infections. The city of Long Beach, California, has

12 cases so far in 2018 - double the normal annual number, said Emily Holman, the city's infectious disease response coordinator.
NBC News

Longtime LA public defender, father dies from apparent West Nile Virus
A longtime Los Angeles County Public Defender and father of two died over the weekend after contracting what was suspected to be West Nile Virus. Fifty-three-year-old Robert Johnson of Shadow Hills passed away Saturday following a month-long fight with the viral infection, according to his husband Scott Montgomery. Montgomery told CBS2 by phone Monday that Johnson started suffering flu-like symptoms over Labor Day weekend.
CBS LA

L.A. to impose new punishment on audience members who disrupt city council meetings
The Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to crack down on people who repeatedly disrupt their meetings at City Hall, defying attorneys and activists who charge that the new rules trample on free speech rights. Beginning in January, people who are repeatedly ejected from City Council or committee meetings for shouting from the audience or other "disruptive acts" can be banned from attending other meetings that day and for up to six additional meeting days.
Los Angeles Times

Have conditions become unsafe for staff & kids at LA County's Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall?
In the past two weeks, two new reports have described critically unsafe conditions at the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, a Los Angeles County Probation Department youth facility located in Sylmar, California. The first report was triggered late last month when officials at AFSCME Local 685 - one of the main unions representing officers working for probation - were worried enough by the urgent messages from their members stationed stationed at the Sylmar facility that they sent union representative, Stacy Ford, to visit the hall and find out what was going on.
Witness LA

L.A. County to stop collecting old juvenile detention fees, erasing nearly $90 million of families' debt
Los Angeles County supervisors voted Tuesday to stop collecting fees once charged to families of juvenile delinquents for their incarceration, ending a practice decried by criminal justice advocates as an unfair tax on minorities and an ineffective means of rehabilitating young people who commit crimes.
Los Angeles Times

Voters in 2020 will weigh new oversight of Sheriff's Department

A ballot initiative aimed at reforming the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department by granting more authority to a civilian oversight commission will go to voters in 2020, the Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday. The organizers behind the grass-roots initiative obtained more than 240,000 signatures from local voters in an effort to increase transparency and accountability at the department, which has faced scrutiny over misconduct by deputies.
Los Angeles Times

County coroner to send letters to doctors when patients die of opioid overdose
Supervisor Janice Hahn and her co-author, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, proposed the new policy after an innovative study in San Diego showed that these types of letters reduce opioid prescriptions. "This is a simple concept that works," said Supervisor Janice Hahn. "When San Diego tried sending out these letters, doctors who learned about patient overdoses chose to reduce the number of opioids they prescribed. This is a creative and easy strategy that will save lives, and I am eager to implement it in LA County."
KHTS Santa Clarita

Consumer News

Police warn against oversharing on social media
Some social media users constantly update their followers about their every move, but tagging your current location online could prove to be the perfect way for burglars to target your house. The Los Angeles Police Department recently arrested four people who they think used social media to target celebrities. LAPD says the thieves targeted a handful of celebrities, including singer Rihanna and football player Robert Woods.
KSBY

Apparel group wants some Amazon sites listed as 'notorious' counterfeit markets
The American Apparel & Footwear Association has appealed to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) asking that three foreign Amazon marketplaces - in Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany - be added to the government agency's Notorious Markets list for alleged involvement in selling counterfeit or pirated products, according to an AAFA press release.
Retail Dive

Amazon is allegedly in the middle of an "unlawful and troubling scheme" to poach eBay sellers
A battle of the mega-marketplaces is underway. Early last week, 23-year old San Jose, California-based eBay demanded that its 24-year old Seattle, Washington-based rival cease its "unlawful and troubling scheme to solicit eBay sellers to move to Amazon's platform" in violation of California's Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, as

well as eBay's user agreement and policies.
The Fashion Law

Media

Once again, the Los Angeles Times unfairly profiles police as racists

At the risk of being repetitive, we return once again to the Los Angeles Times, whose writers and editors seem to leap at any opportunity to present police officers in an unfavorable light. They are so eager to do so, in fact, that they are willing to omit relevant facts from their stories to achieve the purpose.
PJ Media

The News Blues (Video)

The LA Times may have found its savior in Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, but how will the other local newsrooms in LA be rescued? SoCal Connected reports on one of the craziest years for local news in Southern California. Premieres October 9th at 8:00pm.
KCET

California

Snapcrap app aims to provide exposure to San Francisco's public poop problem

It didn't take Sean Miller long after moving from Vermont to San Francisco to understand the scope of a stinky problem plaguing the city by the sea: poop on public sidewalks. Dodging human - and sometimes animal - excrement on walkways became a normal part of the 24-year-old's life in his South of Market neighborhood.
Los Angeles Times

New bills continue criminal justice changes in Calif.

Bills signed by Gov. Jerry Brown this year made significant changes to juvenile courts, police personnel records and the state's murder law, continuing the march by Brown and his legislative allies toward sweeping changes in the criminal justice system. The bills that Brown signed into law continue the criminal justice system reform trend that has brought sweeping changes to the state police agencies, courts and prisons.
San Diego Union-Tribune

Governor candidates spar on vision for California

Republican John Cox entered the only scheduled debate in the campaign for California governor on Monday as an underdog in need of a race-altering breakthrough. He didn't get it. Instead, at a time when politics in Washington and across the nation are marked by bitter partisan fights, the hour-long radio debate between Cox and Democrat Gavin Newsom remained civil, with the candidates sparring on policy and

mostly avoiding personal attacks.
AP

Layered on top of previous mistakes, California's DMV finds an additional 1,500 people wrongly registered to vote under new system
Randall Marquis has lived in California for 31 years, but he knew it was a mistake when he received a notice last month that said he was newly registered to vote. He may have a state driver's license, but he's a citizen of Canada. "When I saw that card, I just threw it out," Marquis said. "I know I'm not going to vote. I'm not allowed to vote, it's stupid that I should be registered to vote."
Los Angeles Times

Jerry Brown's mixed legacy: Is California's departing governor a Resistance hero or a hypocrite?
If anything should be obvious in the wake of the 2016 election it's that both major American political parties are in deep trouble, reflecting the larger trouble of a society potentially headed for state breakdown. The unacknowledged terrible record of the GOP's "deep bench" paved the way for Donald Trump.
Salon

The complex legacy of George Gascón
On Jan. 9, 2011, Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed his police chief, George Gascón - a man who had never tried a case and earned a J.D. in his 40s from the unaccredited law school he attended in the off hours he wasn't working as a Los Angeles cop - as district attorney of San Francisco. So, that was a bit of a surprise. On Oct. 2, 2018, two-term incumbent DA Gascón abruptly announced he would not seek re-election, citing family opposition and the failing health of his 90-year-old mother.
Mission Local

Corrections

L.A.-area gang member on death row fatally stabbed in prison
A gang member on Death Row for the 2006 racially motivated killing of a 14-year-old black girl in the Harbor Gateway area and the slaying of a potential witness two weeks later was fatally stabbed in prison Friday, allegedly by another condemned Los Angeles-area gang member. According to state corrections officials, 30-year-old Jonathan Fajardo was stabbed in the chest and neck at 9:55 a.m. in a recreation yard at San Quentin State Prison.
My News LA

A prison officer was charged with groping. The state now refuses to provide records
Days after Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill that will open files in police

sexual misconduct cases next year, state prison officials refused to release records that could show if a recent groping charge filed against a prison captain is indicative of a larger pattern at the facility. Last week, The Sacramento Bee reported that High Desert State Prison Capt. Christopher Lewis was charged Sept. 5 in Lassen Superior Court with a misdemeanor count of groping an unidentified woman.
Sacramento Bee

Chief psychiatrist says California inaccurate on prison data
The chief psychiatrist for California's prison system is alleging that state officials provided inaccurate or misleading information to a federal judge and inmates' attorneys, giving the false impression that the system is properly caring for mentally ill inmates. U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller on Wednesday said she plans to hear public testimony from the whistleblower, Dr. Michael Golding.
AP

Elections

Elections in L.A. County feature huge House races, big names, sheriff fight, #MeToo
A nation of political junkies knows all about the biggest election in Los Angeles County on Nov. 6, the race for the U.S. House of Representatives between Republican incumbent Steve Knight and Democratic challenger Katie Hill that could help to tip the party balance in Congress. Voters in many parts of L.A. County know - or will know soon - that's far from the only consequential contest here this fall.
Los Angeles Daily News

Los Angeles Times endorses Sheriff Jim McDonnell
Sheriff Jim McDonnell is an outsider-turned-incumbent who in his first term has sometimes struggled to improve the performance and remake the culture of the scandal-plagued Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Though progress has been slow, he is clearly the better choice in the Nov. 6 election than challenger Alex Villanueva, a long-tenured and recently retired sheriff's lieutenant who never rose past the middle ranks and offers a limited record of leadership.
Los Angeles Times

Marijuana

Delivery drivers targeted for cannabis crackdown in California
San Diego remains a risky place to courier cannabis without a state and local license, more folks learned this October. Authorities announced the arrest of two people they suspect ran Leaf Life delivery service out of their home, seizing 50 pounds of products, and $3,500 in cash. San Diego might lead the state in delivery busts - the city's been at it for nearly a generation, ever since medical legalization in 1996.
Leafly

National

The California policeman helping the Philippines tackle child abuse

In 2015, police entered the home of Alain Charlwood-Collings, a 39-year-old man from Tiverton in Devon. On his home computer they made a horrifying discovery: more than 100 hours of live-stream footage of 46 different children being sexually abused thousands of miles away, in the Philippines. Yet it was not until almost three years later - when Charlwood-Collings was already six months into an 18-year prison sentence - that the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation's anti-human trafficking division finally swooped on a small house in Tacloban City in the eastern province of Biliran.
The Guardian

Union Boss: NYC must 'shut down' juvenile detention center to protect guards from 16-year-olds

The leader of a New York City correction officers' union has called on government officials to close a new youth detention facility until the guards can protect themselves from the teenagers they supervise. "It appears that almost everyone is prepared to sacrifice the life of Correction Officers for this social experiment," said Elias Husamudeen, President of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association (COBA), after a brawl between two rival gangs sent more than 20 officers to local hospitals with minor injuries last Wednesday.
The Daily Wire

California and four other states point the way for states to downgrade drug offenses and reduce prison populations

In fives states over the last five years, voters and lawmakers have downgraded felony drug possession to a misdemeanor. California was the first in 2014, with Proposition 47. Then came Utah (HB 348) and Connecticut (HB 7104) in 2015, and Alaska (SB 91) and Oklahoma (State Question 780) in 2016.
Witness LA

Trump engaged in suspect tax schemes as he reaped riches from his father

President Trump participated in dubious tax schemes during the 1990s, including instances of outright fraud, that greatly increased the fortune he received from his parents, an investigation by The New York Times has found. Mr. Trump won the presidency proclaiming himself a self-made billionaire, and he has long insisted that his father, the legendary New York City builder Fred C. Trump, provided almost no financial help.
New York Times

Ore. FBI agent shot by booby-trapped wheelchair

They slipped by the minivan outfitted with the spring-loaded jaws of

animal snares and avoided a circular hot tub turned on its side and designed to roll over trespassers who triggered a tripwire - something reminiscent of "a scene from the movie 'Indiana Jones.'" But the FBI special agent and three state police bomb technicians never made it past the empty wheelchair inside the manufactured home they entered on the southern Oregon property, court records say.
The Oregonian

Immigration

California border district reverses course on a key component of operation streamline

Just two months after Operation Streamline was contentiously rolled out to the Southern District of California, the court suspended a major aspect of the fast-track prosecution program, which aims to federally prosecute and sentence people who cross the border without authorization in a matter of minutes. Judges are no longer accepting guilty pleas on the same day an individual first appears in court, marking the end of a practice that defense attorneys have characterized as "coercive" for the overwhelming pressure it places on a defendant to plead guilty before they have a chance to consider a possible defense.
The Intercept

Guns

111 firearms seized, 35 arrested in operation by new L.A. County task force; big backlog remains

A new police task force targeting people who aren't allowed to have guns has led to 35 arrests and the seizure of more than 100 firearms since June, officials announced Tuesday while acknowledging that an ever-increasing backlog of prohibited possessors remains a major challenge. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra touted the Los Angeles County task force's work at a news conference saying that without them, "we'd have dozens of thousands of weapons being possessed by thousands and thousands of prohibited people in California."
AP

Bail Reform

ABA weighs in on California Supreme Court case affecting state's new bail reform law

The American Bar Association filed an amicus brief Tuesday asking the California Supreme Court to affirm a decision critical of that state's bail schedule. The case involves a habeas corpus petition filed by Kenneth Humphrey, who was charged with theft and making threats in May 2017 and was unable to make the initial $600,000 bail. The San Francisco Chronicle has more on Humphrey's case.
ABA Journal

Elimination of cash-based bail likely to be challenged, experts say
Last month, California became the first state to completely abolish the cash bail-bond system for suspects awaiting trial. "Today, California reforms its bail system so that rich and poor alike are treated fairly," Governor Jerry Brown said at the signing ceremony for SB 10, the California Money Bail Reform Act. The Governor's signature on SB 10 mandates that the entire bail bond industry will be out of business, in favor of a "risk-based assessment" of the accused, on October 1, 2019 when the bill goes into effect.
Press Banner

More defendants miss court date since some cash bonds dropped
Eliminating Atlanta Municipal Court's cash bond requirement for non-violent and poor offenders was the first initiative of Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' administration, and six months later, it has proven to be most problematic. Implemented with the best of intentions, the bond reform system was meant to remove the burden on the poor who were charged with minor offenses, but nonetheless remained in jail for weeks or even months because they could not afford bail.
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Pensions

CalPERS president loses her board seat
The president of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) board has been unseated by a Southern California police officer who ran an election campaign questioning the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investment policies of the nation's largest retirement plan.
Chief Investment Officer

How public employee benefits (beyond pensions and health care) compare to the private sector's
Public-sector workers know that they can generally count on more generous pensions and health coverage than if they worked for the private sector. But at a time of low unemployment, both kinds of employers are beefing up other benefits to recruit and retain workers. How do the two sectors compare on those?
Governing

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